

# UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



INVENTORY No. 78



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## SEEDS AND PLANTS IMPORTED BY THE OFFICE OF FOREIGN PLANT INTRODUCTION, BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY, DURING THE PERIOD FROM JANUARY 1 TO MARCH 31, 1924 (S. P. I. NOS. 58455 TO 58930)

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### INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

IT IS ALWAYS a difficult matter to select from the large quantity of plant material listed in one of these inventories the introductions which claim special attention. A glance at the general character of the material introduced and the sources from which it has been obtained, however, may assist experimenters to form a clearer idea of the department's plant-introduction activities than will be obtained from a perusal of the vast amount of detailed information which must necessarily accompany a record of this sort.

The plants listed in this, the seventy-eighth Inventory of Seeds and Plants Imported, have been obtained through the two usual channels of plant introduction—the agricultural explorers of the bureau and correspondents abroad.

Few agricultural explorations of recent years have penetrated into such remote regions and have brought to light more promising material than that headed by H. V. Harlan, of the Office of Cereal Investigations, Bureau of Plant Industry. In the present inventory are listed a number of his Abyssinian introductions, obtained at the commencement of his stay in that country. Though Doctor Harlan's principal object was to collect rare types of barley for use in breeding work, his shipments include many other crop plants, such as teff (*Eragrostis abyssinica*, No. 58736), sorghum, wheat, cotton, beans, peas, and flax.

Joseph F. Rock, whose explorations in Yunnan, China, were commenced under the auspices of this office, but later transferred to the National Geographic Society, has continued to send in promising ornamental trees, shrubs, and herbaceous perennials from a region where climatic conditions much resemble those of the northern Pacific coast region of the United States. Among Mr. Rock's introductions which are listed in the present inventory are species of *Abies*, *Picea*, *Tsuga*, and other coniferous trees; rhododendrons, cotoneasters, and other ornamental shrubs; and such herbaceous plants as *Primula* and *Lilium*. Concerning one of the hemlocks (*Tsuga* sp., No. 58510) which he found on the Likiang Snow Range, northern Yunnan, at 10,000 feet altitude, he writes that the tree becomes 80 feet or more high, with a trunk 5 feet in diameter, and he considers it to be the finest of all the species of *Tsuga*.

The department's correspondents abroad, with their customary generosity, have contributed many promising lots of material. R. C. Ching, a young Chinese botanist, who accompanied a recent scientific expedition into Kansu Province, northwestern China, has sent a large collection of rare plants from that